

These students set an example for responsible American citizens and scholars. They are a great asset to their families, the Second Congressional District, the State of Mississippi, and this Nation. I wish them the best of luck at the national finals.

HONORING BERTHA DAUBENDIEK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of our environment, Ms. Bertha Daubendiek. On Saturday, April 19, as part of Michigan's Earth Day activities, Ms. Daubendiek will be recognized and honored for her longtime accomplishments in working to preserve our precious natural resources.

After graduating with honors from Grinnell College in 1938, Bertha Daubendiek made Michigan her home, and made activism and voluntarism her new calling. In 1970, her activities prompted both chambers of the Michigan legislature to acknowledge her as one of the States's premier volunteers. As her interest turned to the environment, her commitment to community increased as well. In 1979, Ms. Daubendiek received the Detroit News' Michiganian of the Year Award for her work in the completion of 50 nature preservation projects. In 1994, Ms. Daubendiek was inducted into the Michigan women's Hall of Fame.

Some of Ms. Daubendiek's most significant work has been as founder and executive director of the Michigan Nature Association. This unique group of individuals have banded together and created preserves in 51 of Michigan's 83 counties, enhancing the State's natural beauty. They have performed this task without using a penny of taxpayer funds. In addition to this, Ms. Daubendiek is the author of Michigan's natural beauty road law. Passed in 1970, the law is responsible for the preservation of more than 800 miles of roadside habitat.

If you drive around the great State of Michigan, you may notice new license plates on some of our automobiles that display the saying, "Great Lakes Splendor." I believe this statement is true because of the efforts of people like Bertha Daubendiek.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to a true environmental hero, Bertha Daubendiek. She is an inspiration to me and countless others who work to protect our precious environment.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1362—VETERANS MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1997

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I have joined with Congressman STUMP, many of the Republican and all of the Democratic mem-

bers of the Veterans' Affairs Committee to introduce the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997. This strong show of support by so many members of the committee clearly indicates the high priority my colleagues and I give this legislation.

For some time our committee has been exploring the intra-government transfer, or subvention, from Medicare to VA. This year the committee began the process at the urging of veterans and the Veterans Health Administration. Veterans wanted to gain access to the veterans health care system. VA felt it was in their best interest to explore nonappropriated funding as a growing part of their resource base.

VA has submitted a budget during this session of Congress that identified VA collecting and keeping funding from the Medicare trust funds for treatment of certain Medicare-eligible veterans. This is a critical part of the strategy VA has outlined for its future. The Independent Budget, an assessment of veterans programs' resource needs written by four of the major veterans' service organizations and sponsored by many more, also endorses the concept of using Medicare funds in VA.

I am convinced the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997 we are introducing today offers the best and the most risk-free way of exploring the viability of this funding option for both VA and for Medicare. This bill does not propose VHA develop a new managed care system tailored to treating a new population of veterans. Instead, it provides VA the opportunity to offer the services it has available to treat aging veterans who might not otherwise receive this care. This will allow VA to limit its care responsibility for new veterans to the services and capabilities that it has available right now.

In addition, the demonstration project authorized by this legislation is time- and site-limited. There are additional safeguards in place to ensure that the Medicare trust fund will not spend any additional funding for veterans who choose VA as a health care provider.

The veterans that this bill will affect are lower and middle-income veterans—some of whom have lost access to VA health care services as constrained resources have compelled VA to stop treating so-called discretionary veterans. VA will receive no funding from Medicare for veterans who are receiving care in VA medical centers today.

We believe that our bill creates opportunities for everyone involved to benefit. The Medicare trust funds have a chance to save money because VA will discount Medicare's rates for providing care to the new Medicare-eligible veterans it will treat. Specifically, Medicare would receive a mandatory 5-percent discount on its reimbursement for services provided to eligible veterans in VA. For this reason, it is our strong view that this bill will produce savings for the Medicare trust funds.

VA will benefit by opening its doors to care for new veterans. Most importantly, veterans will benefit by having a new choice of health care provider.

I hope that my colleagues will view this bill, not just as a bill good for veterans, but as an opportunity to help preserve Medicare for older Americans as well.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY TUFTONIA'S DAY 1997, APRIL 21, 1997

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor the more than 78,000 alumni who this Monday, April 21, 1997, will turn their attention to their alma mater in celebration of the 13th annual Tuftonia's Day.

Tuftonia's Day is a gathering of students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents to celebrate the achievements of the Tufts community. This community extends not only to the campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA, but also as far away as the campus abroad in Talloires, France. Students and graduates of Tufts live in more than 100 countries around the world. Tufts is truly a world-class institution of higher education. Tufts University strives to instill in all its students, from undergraduate through the professional degree program, the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's community.

For this reason the focus of this year's Tuftonia's Day is again TuftServe. The purpose of this is to highlight and show appreciation for the volunteer work that the alumni of Tufts have contributed to their local communities. In fact, Tufts alumni logged over 218,915 hours of community service last year. This outstanding record should stand as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their commitment to the community and loyalty to their alma mater.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to House Joint Resolution 62 as it was considered on the floor of the House of Representatives earlier this week. Although the House considered related legislation, House Joint Resolution 159, during the 104th Congress, the differences between these two measures is substantial. House Joint Resolution 159 would have required a supermajority in Congress to approve any bill which would raise Federal revenue. This year, however, the House leadership decided to include an exception to this rule. While I agree there may have been a need to provide for exemptions to the supermajority requirement, I believe the leadership should have excluded measures which would close tax loopholes or eliminate corporate welfare provisions from the Internal Revenue Code. Unfortunately, House Joint Resolution 62 did not address either of these possibilities.

Instead, the resolution was specifically altered to allow for a change in the Tax Code which would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of families in the United States. The night before this measure was